THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The newspaper report perhaps refers to the 12th report of the Standing Committee on Railways. This report is under examination.

Rail Ticket Racket

1219. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket involving some authorised travel agents was recently discovered in Delhi in which the signature of Members of Parliament were forged to acquire railway tickets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the persons concerned?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) An instance of securing reservation on a fake letter on the letter head of an M.P. for release of 3 sleeper class berths in favour of a party travelling from New Delhi to Vadodara by 2472 Swaraj Express on 27.9.97 has come to notice recently on a sample check. The suspected person was apprehended and handed over to the local police for further action. A show Cause Notice has also been issued for termination of the licence of the authorised Rail Travellers' Service Agent suspected to be involved in this case.

पश्चिम रेलवे के अंतर्गत मुंबई के महाप्रबंधक को सांसदों से पत्र

1220. **श्री चीमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ला:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पश्चिम रेलवे के अंतर्गत मुंबई के महाप्रबंधक द्वारा सांसदों तथा क्षेत्रीय परामर्शदात्री समिति के सदस्यों से प्राप्त पत्रों पर विगत छः माह के दौरान क्या-क्या कार्यवाही की गई है;

(ख) उन्हें किन-किन संदर्भों में ये पत्र प्राप्त हुए हैं और इसका विभाग-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) महाप्रबंधक ने संबंधित प्रभागीय प्रबंधकों को इन पत्रों के आधार पर क्या-क्या आदेश जारी किए हैं;

(घ) क्या मंत्रालय द्वारा सांसदों के पत्रों की पावती देने की कोई समय-सीमा निर्धारित की गई है; और

(ङ) क्या महाप्रबंधक और प्रभागीय प्रबंधकों द्वारा इसका अनुपालन किया जाता है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) से (ङ) सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Railway Convention Committee's Recommendation

1221. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the high level Parliamentary Committee Railway Convention Committee (VII) had given several recommendations regarding modification in the service conditions/promotional prospects of Group 'B' officers of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, how many such recommendations were made and how many of them have been accepted and implemented; and

(c) by when the same are proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The four recommendations made in this regard are under consideration.

Regularisation of contract workers in Southern Division

1222. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation towards regularisation of services of 125 contract labourers engaged for loading and unloading of coal from the steam engines in Trichy division of Southern Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these 125 contract labourers are sitting idle without job for the last three years;

(c) if the answer of part (a) and (b) is in affirmative what are the steps taken by Government to see that these contract labourers are engaged in work; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are not Railway employees and are contract labours. Railways do not have any such information.

(c) and (d) Engagement in regular service of erstwhile contract labour engaged in Coal and Ash Handling work in loco sheds is under consideration.

Safety measure in Railways

1223. SHRIMATI JAYA PRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what safety measures have been taken to reduce the Railway accidents which have spurted of late; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The following safety measures have been taken after the railway accidents occurred in the recent past:

1. Priority execution of track circuiting on all the trunk route and main line stations.

2. Change in signalling circuitory to prevent slot being given till starter and advance starter signal for the preceding train have been put back to on position.

3. The track structure has been strengthened. The rails have been converted into long welded rail panels by welding and removing fishplates.

4. The communication facility between station staff, driver and guard of running trains will be provided.

5. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscilograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

6. The condition of rolling stock has been improved. Four-wheeler wagons are being replaced progressively with better bogie Air-brake stock.

7. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, all ROH depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.

8. The training of staff has been given new thrust with better training facilities like projector, slides, study and discussions of accident cases.

9. Simulators have been installed for training of drivers. Two simulators are working, one each at Kanpur and Tughlakabad. Two more are being imported from Australia.

10. Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train and stopping the train if the driver does not respond within the pre-determined time interval has already been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

11. Instant action Groups have been formed on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and persons carrying inflammable/explosive materials.

12. The frequency of inspections and surprise checks has been increased. More safety drives have been launched.

13. Detailed instructions have been issued for booking of drivers for working of diverted trains.

14. Intensive safety drive have been launched to educate drivers on not taking of alcohol on duty.